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UNCLAS OTTAWA 000007

SIPDIS

GENEVA FOR USTR

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: CANADA'S VIEWS ON PROPOSED U.S. TRIPS MORATORIUM

REF: STATE 265619

1. Post delivered reftel letter from USTR Zoellick to Minister for International Trade Pettigrew, with copies to Minister of Foreign Affairs Graham and Minister of Health McLellan. On December 30, Suzanne Vinet, Director General for Service, Investment and Intellectual Property at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade called to clarify some of the points in the letter.

2. Vinet was interested in whether the letter was to Canada only, and wondered if we were asking other countries for support of the moratorium. We explained that the letter had been sent by Ambassador Zoellick to all his WTO counterparts. Although we welcome support, we had only been asked to provide host country reaction. The Canadian embassy in Washington had already seen the proposal on the USTR website and in "Inside US Trade." We clarified that although the proposal is public, it would not be formally presented to the WTO until early January. DG Vinet, who has only been in her current job for two weeks and had not yet studied the proposal, said she would consult within the GOC once colleagues return from leave.

YOUNG